

ED COMMITTEE #1
July 7, 2008
Briefing

MEMORANDUM

July 3, 2008

TO: Education Committee

FROM: Essie McGuire, Legislative Analyst *EMcGuire*
Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst *ny*

SUBJECT: **Review of MCPS Food and Nutrition Services, and Update on Summer Food Program**

Today the Education Committee is scheduled to receive an overview briefing on the Montgomery County Public Schools' Food and Nutrition Services, including an update on the summer food program.

Kathleen Lazor, Director, Division of Food and Nutrition Services, MCPS, will provide an overview of the regulations governing the food program; review the revenue and cost structure; review other food programs provided by MCPS; and update the activity of the summer food program. The presentation is attached on circles 1-16.

OVERVIEW: FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

The Division of Food and Nutrition Services is an enterprise fund that requires revenue to cover expenses. Federal regulations require that it operate as a non-loss, non-profit operation. The operations of the division have been of interest in recent months as the rapidly increasing costs in fuel, labor, and food prices are creating cost pressures as MCPS works to maintain its program.

A Washington Post article from April 14 (circles 31-33) highlights the impact of increasing food prices and some of the cost containment measures MCPS and other school systems have had to implement in response. MCPS Superintendent Jerry Weast documented the impact of the cost increases in a memorandum to the Board of Education dated April 10, 2008 (circle 22). This memorandum projected a \$265,000 loss for FY08 for the division, revised to account for the change in expenses.

Ms. Lazor will review the Federal and State governance structures that the program must operate within. A question and answer document from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding the National School Lunch Program is attached on circles 19-21. Participation in this program requires school systems to offer free and reduced meals according to the Federal guidelines, and also entitles the school systems to the associated Federal reimbursement.

In FY08, MCPS served over 3 million breakfasts and 9.9 million lunches (circle 8). Circle 8 shows the trends since FY04; while the total number of lunches has increased significantly, by nearly 1.3 million, the proportion of paid, free, and reduced meals has remained roughly the same.

Revenue and Cost Structure

As outlined on circle 6, Federal reimbursement is the largest single source of revenue for the program, accounting for 41 percent of revenue. Student meal sales are the next largest source, at 31 percent of revenue. The ala carte sales figure of 21 percent includes MCPS catering sales as well as other student non-meal purchases.

Circle 9 shows the breakout of meal cost by reimbursement amount per meal. It is important to note that the Federal and State reimbursements combined with the student price does not cover the full cost to MCPS to prepare the meal for either paid or free meals. Per meal, the reimbursements for breakfasts result in a roughly \$0.30 shortfall; for paid lunch it is a \$0.91 shortfall and for free lunches it is a \$0.81 shortfall. MCPS uses the division's other entrepreneurial activities to subsidize the breakfast and lunch program.

Student Price

On June 10, the Board of Education approved a \$0.15 increase in the price of lunch and a \$0.05 increase in the price of breakfast. This increase follows a larger increase that was approved in FY07 (circle 23).

Fiscal Year	Breakfast	ES Lunch	Secondary lunch
FY07 increase	\$0.25	\$0.30	\$0.45
FY09 increase	\$0.05	\$0.15	\$0.15
SY08-09 price	\$1.30	\$2.40	\$2.65

The memorandum to the Board regarding the price increase is attached on circles 23-26. This memorandum projects expenditure increases in each of the next three fiscal years, and details the cost saving measures that the division has taken to manage expenses. Circle 26 shows the prices in other regional jurisdictions; it indicates that many of these jurisdictions are also considering price increases.

MCPS indicates that the student meal market is very price sensitive, estimating that each cent increase in the price decreases participation by one percent. Price

increases do not affect children eligible for Federal reimbursement under FARMS, as the reduced price remains the same and cannot increase beyond the Federal guidelines. However, circle 10 indicates that participation in reduced price lunches has been decreasing for the last three years.

Ms. Lazor reports that MCPS has developed a partnership with the City of Gaithersburg to increase breakfast participation. The City pays the reduced price cost for eligible children, and half of the cost of the paid breakfast for children whose families earn within a set dollar amount of the Federal income guidelines.

It is clearly a concern that participation in reduced price lunch is decreasing. It may be helpful to understand the factors involved in the reduced participation, particularly given that the price for reduced meals has not changed in recent years. It may also be useful to know whether MCPS has any similar information about participation of families whose incomes are over but close to the Federal eligibility limits.

Other programs

Ms. Lazor has also provided information on other food programs, as follows.

Breakfast: Circle 28 discusses the applications for the State of Maryland Meals for Achievement program, which provides the universal in-classroom breakfast program at schools with large numbers of children eligible for FARMS. The Board and Council had agreed last year that all eligible schools should apply for the program, notwithstanding the limited funding available. However, for the next school year, MCPS indicates that MSDE only accepted applications from schools already enrolled in the program due to limited funding. MCPS continues to have 29 schools enrolled in the program; Mark Twain, which has closed, will be replaced with Arcola ES.

Fresh fruit and vegetable program: Circles 29-30 discuss a new initiative related to increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and to integrating them into classroom and other learning activities. This program will be funded with Federal grant funds. MCPS plans to implement this program at Arcola ES and Newport Mill MS next year.

MCPS SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

In January 2008, the HHS and Education Committees received a briefing from MCPS staff on the Summer Food program offered by MCPS and efforts to increase participation in it. The program receives support solely from Federal funding with no inclusion of local funds. Committee members requested that key stakeholders look into effective methods of marketing the program and reaching eligible populations. Ms. Lazor will update the Committee on efforts to increase participation in the Summer Food Program since January and the results to date of these efforts.

Efforts to Increase Participation

The Summer Meals Program Outreach workgroup has been meeting since January 7, 2008 to explore opportunities for expansion of the summer food program in Montgomery County. Representatives of MCPS, County agencies, community-based organizations, community advocates, and public officials have participated in the workgroup. The workgroup collaborated to identify summer activities serving youth who meet the economic parameters of the meals program and partners in the public and private sectors who could help support the program. The slide at circle 14 describes the outreach efforts made to increase participation in the program.

Participation Rates

The number of sites participating in the Summer Meals Program for 2008 has increased significantly to 103 sites from 79 sites in 2007, a 30 % increase. See circle 14. For the six years preceding 2008, the number of sites held fairly constant, as the chart below indicates.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Sites	79	81	83	80	80	79	103

A list of current sites is attached at circle 34 and includes MCPS summer school sites, apartment complexes, community centers, camp sites, and faith-based centers.

MCPS estimates that 12,124 children will be served in 2008 compared to the 9,089 children served in 2007, a 33% increase.

New Open Site Program

As part of the Kennedy Cluster Project, the Summer Meals Program started a new open site program at Georgian Forest Elementary School this year. The new site is open to any students 18 and younger who attend John F. Kennedy High School, Argyle Middle School, Georgian Forest, Strathmore and Bel Pre Elementary Schools. Unlike other summer meal sites, this site is a walk-in site and does not require enrollment in a specific summer program to participate. To improve access to this opportunity, a lunch circulator bus picks up children at eight neighborhood sites beginning at 10:30 a.m. and runs every 30 minutes until 1 p.m. Ride On and Metro buses are also providing free bus tokens for students who take those buses to Georgian Forest Elementary. The program began on June 16, continues through August 15, and runs five days a week from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Additional information about the program is attached at circles 34-40.

Montgomery County Public Schools Division of Food & Nutrition Services



Presentation
Education Committee, Montgomery County Council
July 7, 2008





Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Food and Nutrition Services is to provide a variety of appealing, quality, nutritious meals respectful of each student's needs and differences. Meals are served in a learning, innovative environment by employees empowered to promote success for every student in a cost effective and efficient operation.

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Controlling Legal Authorities

- Federal Statutes
- USDA Regulations
- State Instructions / Policy Memos

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National School Lunch Act of 1946

Section 2 – Preamble

Critical because it expresses the sense of Congress that the establishment and maintenance of school lunch programs are "a measure of national security" meant to "safeguard the health... of the Nation's children", not welfare programs intended for the poor.

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MCPS MENU PLANNING

- USDA nutritional requirements
- Student preferences (participation)
- Cultural, ethnic considerations
- Production issues (CPF and Schools)
- Food Safety
- Product availability/USDA commodities
- Cost

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USDA Nutritional Requirements (adjusted for grade level combinations)

Nutrient	Breakfast Elem/Sec	Elementary Lunch	Secondary Lunch
Calories (Kcal)	483	645	819
Protein (g)	6.7	8.9	16
Calcium (mg)	200	267	400
Iron (mg)	2.5	3.3	4.5
Vitamin A (RE)	158.4	211	300
Vitamin C (mg)	11.3	15.0	18
Total calories from fat	30% or less	30% or less	30% or less
Total calories from saturated fat	Less than 10%	Less than 10%	Less than 10%

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Staying in the Forefront...

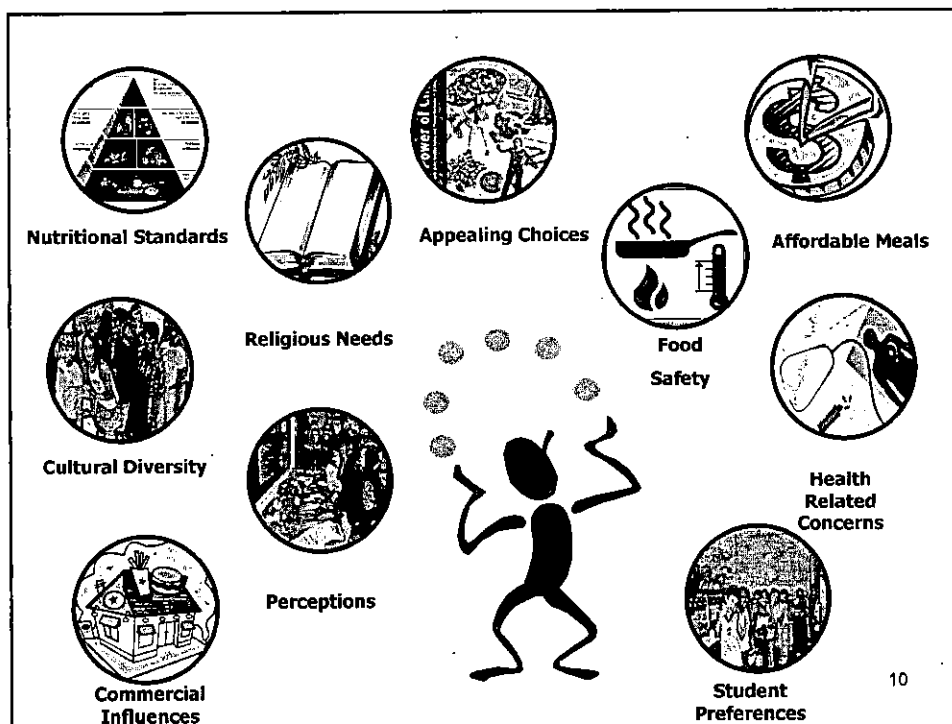
- o Central Production Facility – consistent nutritional content
- o Accessible nutrition information
- o Ingredient and preparation modification
- o Ala Carte/snack guidelines
 - Importance of making wise food choices
 - Support the nutrition curriculum taught in the classroom

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Getting Our Message Out...

- o Menus
- o DFNS Web page
- o MCPS Communications
 - o The Bulletin
 - o MCPS iTV
 - o Parent Academy
 - o School newspapers
- o Back-to-school nights
- o Classroom visits
- o Community based activities
- o Press releases and articles

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Balancing the Budget

- Total budget FY 2008
 - 46,717,154
- Food costs = 32%
- Labor costs = 35%
 - Salaries only
 - 605 FTEs = 850 employees
- Other costs = 33%
 - Supplies, uniforms, employee benefits, equipment, vehicles

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Sources of Revenue

- Federal reimbursement = 41%
- State reimbursement = 2.5%
- Student meals = 31%
- Ala carte sales = 21%
- Sale of meals to outside programs = 2%
 - Montgomery County Senior Citizen Program
 - Private schools
 - Day care centers
- Bank interest and investment revenue = 1.5%
- Other = 1%

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Reimbursements

- Federal FY08
 - Lunch
 - \$0.23 for paid
 - \$2.07 for reduced
 - \$2.47 for free
 - Breakfast
 - \$0.24 for paid
 - \$1.05 for reduced
 - \$1.35 for free
 - +\$0.26 for severe need for free and reduced
- State FY08
 - Lunch
 - \$0.115 for free and reduced
 - Breakfast
 - \$0.1325 for free and reduced
 - +\$.05 for severe need for free and reduced
 - Commodity Value
 - \$0.1875 per lunch

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Student Meal Cost for FY08

- Breakfast
 - \$1.25 for paid
 - \$0.30 for reduced price eligible
- Lunch
 - \$2.25 for elementary paid
 - \$2.50 for secondary paid
 - \$0.40 for reduced price eligible

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Number of Meals Served in FY2008

- Breakfast
 - Total = 3,065,017
 - 32% paid
 - 54% free
 - 14% reduced price
- Lunch
 - Total = 9,878,471
 - 50% paid
 - 37% free
 - 13% reduced price

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Trends in Lunch

Year	Total	Paid	Free	Reduced
FY 2008	9,878,471	50%	37%	13%
FY 2007	9,442,495	51%	35%	14%
FY 2006	9,446,268	55%	32%	13%
FY 2005	8,912,248	51%	35%	14%
FY 2004	8,520,245	52%	34%	14%

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Cost vs. Reimbursement for Paid Meals

o Lunch

Cost	\$3.58
Student	-2.25
Federal	.23
Commodity	<u>.19</u>
	.91

o Breakfast

Cost	\$1.79
Student	-1.25
Federal	<u>.24</u>
	.30

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Cost vs. Reimbursement for Free Meals

o Lunch

Cost	\$3.58
Federal	-2.47
State	.115
Commodity	<u>.19</u>
	.805

o Breakfast

Cost	\$1.79
Federal	- 1.35
State	<u>.1325</u>
	.3075

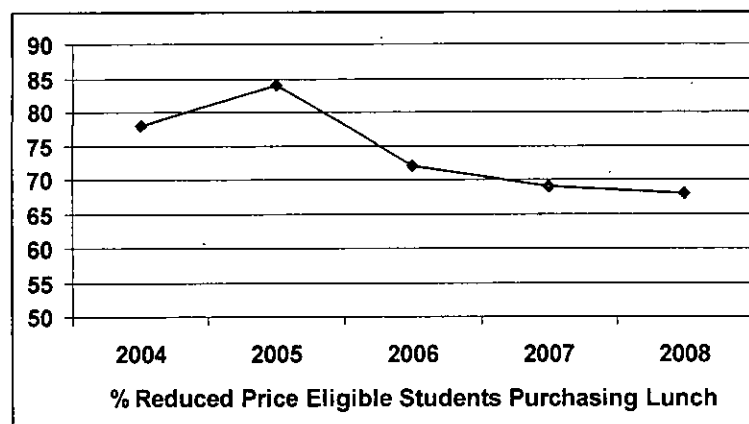
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Strategic Challenges

- Federal and State mandates
- USDA Commodities
- Balancing the budget
- Cost of meals vs. economy
- School schedules
- Competition
- Mother Nature

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Reduced Price Lunch Participation



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USDA Commodity Entitlement

School Year	Entitlement Amount	Bonus Amount	Total Amount
2003/04	\$1,566,388	\$470,846	\$2,037,234
2004/05	\$1,459,344	\$753,204	\$2,212,548
2005/06	\$1,663,455	\$167,393	\$1,830,848
2006/07	\$1,944,516	\$00	\$1,944,516
2007/08	\$1,983,175	\$111,118	\$2,094,293

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Strategies for Strategic Challenges

- Six year financial plan
- Purchasing
 - Collaboration with vendors
- Flexibility and communication
 - Focus groups
 - Action teams
 - Customer involvement
 - Marketing

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Other School Based Programs



Maryland Meals For Achievement

- School year 2008-2009
 - 29 schools
 - Adding Arcola Elementary School
 - Deleting Mark Twain



After School Snacks

- Provided to students 18 years old and younger
- If there is at least 50% of school enrollment eligible for free and reduced price meals, then all snacks are provided at no cost to the student
- If the site does not meet the above, the student pays based on paid and reduced price eligibility

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After School Snacks

- Reimbursement from Federal
 - \$0.68 for free
 - \$0.34 for reduced
 - \$0.06 for paid
- Student pays
 - \$1.45
 - \$0.15 for reduced price eligible

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Summer Food Service Program

- 103 sites
 - 30% increase over 2007 (79 sites)
- 12,124 children served
 - 33% increase over 2007 (9,089 children)
- All children attending the site receive a breakfast and/or lunch meal at no cost

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Summer Outreach Activities

- Excel Beyond the Bell
- "Take 10" for MCPS iTV
- YMCA Healthy Kids Day
- Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
- Kennedy Cluster Project
- Summer program information included on elementary school menus, MCPS QuickNotes and signs posted in community locations
- Site information sent to Collaboration Council, Interfaith Works of Montgomery County, MCCPTA Bulletin, Montgomery County Department of Recreation, City of Rockville
- Location of summer sites included on GIS Map Gallery of MCPS Department of Planning and Capital Programming Web page

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Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

- Arcola Elementary School and Newport Mill Middle School
 - Introduce a fresh fruit or vegetable on a weekly basis
 - Educational activities and materials planned around the weekly offering
 - Materials to go home with students

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Meals at School are Important

- > 1/2 young people in the U.S get one of three meals from the school meal program
- 10% get two meals at school
- Well-planned and well-implemented program
- Opportunity for students to learn about and practice healthy eating

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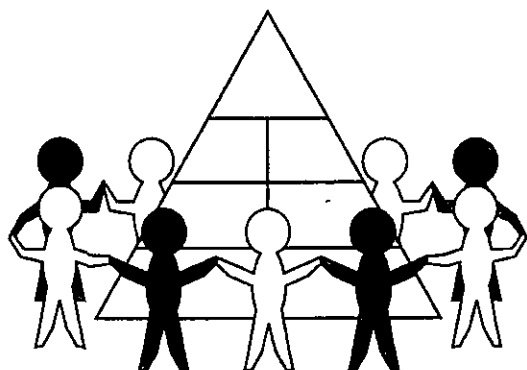
Guiding Students to Make Healthy Choices

- Helps support growth and development
- Helps prevent childhood health problems
- Helps prevent childhood obesity
- Helps decrease the risk of developing chronic diseases
- **Students are ready to learn**

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Montgomery County Public Schools

Division of Food & Nutrition Services



A tradition of providing school meals
to ensure children's health and promote their
ability to learn.

Our Philosophy...

The Division of Food and Nutrition Services is proud to be a vital link in the "Success for Every Student" program. Our philosophy is that appropriate combinations, balance, careful selections and preparation of individual food items play equally important roles in our menu planning process. Menus and food specifications are based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans without depriving students of their favorite foods. Our menus are planned by licensed, registered dietitians and analyzed by computer to ensure maintenance of dietary goals, such as the 30% or less target for calories from fat over a week's menus. Purchased foods, recipe ingredients and preparation techniques are reviewed carefully so that menus are in compliance with nutritional guidelines.

The ultimate nutritional value, however, will be determined by the actual food consumed. In the elementary schools, menus are presented as a balanced unit, but not all items may be consumed. In the middle schools and high schools, a variety of choices are available and students are encouraged to learn how to choose wisely by selecting a balance of favorites with other offerings.

The mission of the Division of Food and Nutrition Services is to provide nutritious, acceptable meals at the lowest possible cost to our customers. The division operates within the established guidelines of the school system while maintaining a non-profit self supporting status.

Updated August 15, 2007.0

The School Meals Program

- Menus meet nutritional standards
- Appealing choices are available
- Meals are affordable
- Food safety is a priority
- Student cultural and ethnic preferences are considered
- Portion sizes appropriate—no "portion distortion"

The Cafeteria a la Carte/Snack Program

Beginning with the school year 2002-2003, the Division of Food & Nutrition Services adopted stricter nutritional guidelines for the a la carte/snack program. Currently the nutritional guidelines for foods sold a la carte are:

- 7 grams or less of fat per serving
- 2 grams or less saturated fat per serving
- 15 grams or less of sugar per serving (except fresh/ dried fruit)
- Sports drinks (isotonic beverages) will not be sold
- 100% fruit juice is available
- Fruit beverages must contain a minimum of 50 % fruit juice

School Vending/Store/Fundraisers

In continuing efforts to promote and maintain a healthy school environment, guidelines for the sale of snack and beverage items through vending machines, school stores, athletic department and fundraisers have been updated. Under the direction of the Chief Operating Officer, schools were notified of the nutritional requirements for the sale of food sold to students from 12:01 a.m. until the end of the instructional day.

Snack Items — Per single serving, as stated on the package label

- 7 grams or less fat (except nuts and seed mix)
- 2 grams or less saturated fat
- 15 grams or less of sugar (except fresh/dried fruit)

Beverages — Container size not to exceed 16 ounces except for unflavored water

- Water
- Flavored, noncarbonated water
- Fruit beverages containing a minimum of 50% fruit juice
- Sports drinks (isotonic beverages) to be available in the physical education area only
- Milk vending is available in middle and high schools.

Nutritional Guidelines for MCPS Menus

Breakfast Nutrient Standards (1/4 RDA)			
Nutrients & Dietary Components	Ages 3-4 Head Start	Ages 5-10 Grades K—5	Ages 11-17 Grades 6—12
Calories (kcal)	388	554	554
Protein (gm)	5	10	10
Iron (mg)	2.5	3	3
Calcium (mg)	200	257	257
Vitamin A (RE)	113	197	197
Vitamin C (mg)	11	13	13
Total Fat	30% of kcal or less	30% of kcal or less	30% of kcal or less
Saturated Fat	<10% of kcal	<10% of kcal	<10% of kcal

Lunch Nutrient Standards (1/3 RDA)			
Nutrients & Dietary Components	Ages 3-4 Head Start	Ages 5-10 Grades K—5	Ages 11-17 Grades 6—12
Calories (kcal)	517	664	825
Protein (gm)	7	10	16
Iron (mg)	3.3	3.5	4.5
Calcium (mg)	267	286	400
Vitamin A (RE)	150	224	300
Vitamin C (mg)	14	15	18
Total Fat	30% of kcal or less	30% of kcal or less	30% of kcal or less
Saturated Fat	<10% of kcal	<10% of kcal	<10% of kcal

Carbohydrate, cholesterol, sodium and fiber are monitored, though no specific guidelines have been set.

Nutritional analysis of menus is based on a weekly average and must comply with the guidelines.

National School Lunch Program

1. What is the National School Lunch Program?

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in over 101,000 public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to more than 30 million children each school day in 2006. In 1998, Congress expanded the National School Lunch Program to include reimbursement for snacks served to children in afterschool educational and enrichment programs to include children through 18 years of age.

The Food and Nutrition Service administers the program at the Federal level. At the State level, the National School Lunch Program is usually administered by State education agencies, which operate the program through agreements with school food authorities.

2. How does the National School Lunch Program work?

Generally, public or nonprofit private schools of high school grade or under and public or nonprofit private residential child care institutions may participate in the school lunch program. School districts and independent schools that choose to take part in the lunch program get cash subsidies and donated commodities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for each meal they serve. In return, they must serve lunches that meet Federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced price lunches to eligible children. School food authorities can also be reimbursed for snacks served to children through age 18 in afterschool educational or enrichment programs.

3. What are the nutritional requirements for school lunches?

School lunches must meet the applicable recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which recommend that no more than 30 percent of an individual's calories come from fat, and less than 10 percent from saturated fat. Regulations also establish a standard for school lunches to provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances of protein, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, iron, calcium, and calories.

School lunches must meet Federal nutrition requirements, but decisions about what specific foods to serve and how they are prepared are made by local school food authorities.

4. How do children qualify for free and reduced-price meals?

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the National School Lunch Program. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals, for which students can be charged no more than 40 cents. (For the period July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, 130 percent of the poverty level is \$26,845 for a family of four; 185 percent is \$38,203.)

Children from families with incomes over 185 percent of poverty pay a full price, though their meals are still subsidized to some extent. Local school food authorities set their own prices for full-price (paid) meals, but must operate their meal services as non-profit programs.

Afterschool snacks are provided to children on the same income eligibility basis as school meals. However, programs that operate in areas where at least 50 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals may serve all their snacks for free.

5. How much reimbursement do schools get?

Most of the support USDA provides to schools in the National School Lunch Program comes in the form of a cash reimbursement for each meal served. The current (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008) basic cash reimbursement rates if school food authorities served less than 60% free and reduced price lunches during the second preceding school year are:

Free lunches:	\$2.47	Free snacks:	\$0.68
Reduced-price lunches:	\$2.07	Reduced-price snacks:	\$0.34
Paid lunches:	\$0.23	Paid snacks:	\$0.06

Higher reimbursement rates are in effect for Alaska and Hawaii, and for schools with high percentages of low-income students. For the latest reimbursement rates visit FNS website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/notices/naps/NAPs.htm>

6. What other support do schools get from USDA?

In addition to cash reimbursements, schools are entitled by law to receive commodity foods, called "entitlement" foods, at a value of 16.75 cents for each meal served in Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Schools can also get "bonus" commodities as they are available from surplus agricultural stocks.

Through Team Nutrition USDA provides schools with technical training and assistance to help school food service staffs prepare healthful meals, and with nutrition education to help children understand the link between diet and health.

7. What types of foods do schools get from USDA?

States select entitlement foods for their schools from a list of various foods purchased by USDA and offered through the school lunch program. Bonus foods are offered only as they become available through agricultural surplus. The variety of both entitlement and bonus commodities schools can get from USDA depends on quantities available and market prices.

A very successful project between USDA and the Department of Defense (DoD) has helped provide schools with fresh produce purchased through DoD. USDA has also worked with schools to help promote connections with local small farmers who may be able to provide fresh produce.

8. How many children have been served over the years?

The National School Lunch Act in 1946 created the modern school lunch program, though USDA had provided funds and food to schools for many years prior to that. About 7.1 million children were participating in the National School Lunch Program by the end of its first year, 1946-47. By 1970, 22 million children were participating, and by 1980 the figure was nearly 27 million. In 1990, over 24 million children ate school lunch every day. In Fiscal Year 2006, more than 30.1 million children each day got their lunch through the National School Lunch Program.

9. How much does the program cost?

The National School Lunch Program cost \$8.2 billion in FY 2006. By comparison, the lunch program's total cost in 1947 was \$70 million; in 1950, \$119.7 million; in 1960, \$225.8 million; in 1970, \$565.5 million; in 1980, \$3.2 billion; in 1990, \$3.7 billion; and in 2000, 6.1 billion.

For more information:

For information on the operation of the National School Lunch Program and all the Child Nutrition Programs, contact the State agency in your state that is responsible for the administration of the programs. A listing of all our State agencies may be found on our web site at www.fns.usda.gov/cnd, select "Contact Us", then select "Child Nutrition Programs"

You may also contact us through the office of USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Public Information Staff at 703-305-2286, or by mail at 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 914, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.


July 2007

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

April 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Status of the Division of Food and Nutrition Service's Enterprise Fund

The Division of Food and Nutrition Services operates as an Enterprise Fund and is required by the federal government to manage as a non-loss, non-profit operation. The division completes a six year financial plan by estimating revenues and expenses and determines meal prices and its budget, accordingly.

For FY 2008, the division projected an overall 5 percent increase in expenses and a 5.6 percent increase in revenues. This projection included the negotiated Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The division recently completed an end-of-year projection based on financial reports through February 2008. The revised projection indicates a 5 percent increase in expenses with a 3.7 percent increase in revenues. Revenue generated through the a la carte and catering programs has fallen below projections. Furthermore, interest rates have fallen, which impacted the interest accrued through the fund balance.

The division has controlled expenses for supplies and other costs relating to mileage, vehicles, and equipment. However, food costs continue to escalate. Dairy prices have increased up to 23 percent, due to increased costs of animal feed, fuel, and the elimination of a credit waiver that took effect on July 1, 2007. It is expected that overall food costs will continue to rise as much as 4 percent in the next year, the largest increase since 1990.

The higher food costs in the marketplace have a negative impact on the purchasing power of the division when utilizing commodities provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The division expects to spend over \$200,000 in operating funds to purchase food that was originally to be purchased through the USDA Food Distribution Program.

Taking into consideration the updated projections for FY 2008, the division expects to have a \$265,000 loss for FY 2008.

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Kathleen C. Lazor, director, Division of Food and Nutrition Services, at 301-840-8170.

JDW:skh

Copy to:
Executive Staff
Mr. Benson
Mrs. Lazor

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Recommended FY 2009 Fees for the Food and Nutrition Services Program

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Division of Food and Nutrition Services is an enterprise fund that requires revenue to cover expenses. Due to the current and projected increases in expenditures in the food services program, I am recommending a 15-cent increase in the price of lunch for elementary and secondary school students, and a five-cent increase in the price of breakfast for FY 2009. In FY 2007, the Board approved a 45-cent increase for secondary school lunch, a 30-cent increase for elementary school lunch, and a 25-cent increase in the price of breakfast.

The Division of Food and Nutrition Services receives income in the following forms:

- Federal reimbursement for paid, free, and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches served to students; after-school snacks served to qualifying sites; and summer meals served in the Summer Food Program.
- State reimbursement for free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches served to students.
- Cash from students purchasing paid and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches.
- Cash from other sales, including a la carte student sales, adult meals, meals served to non-MCPS sites, and other entrepreneurial activities.
- Bank account and investment interest revenue.

Federal reimbursement rates are expected to increase by 2 percent. There will be no increase in state reimbursement rates. Additional revenues are expected as a result of projected increases in participation, largely due to the increase in free and reduced-price eligible students and secondary school students purchasing a reimbursable meal and not a la carte items. However, the projected increases will not generate enough income to cover the escalating costs.

Major cost-cutting measures have been in place over the past several years. However, expenses, such as negotiated salaries and employee benefits, are increasing the division's base cost structure. Wholesale food costs are projected to increase 6.1 percent in FY 2009, while the benefits costs are projected to increase 6.1 percent. At the present time, the large number of part-time staffing that is necessary for the division's operations gives rise to a higher benefit rate when compared to the MCPS average of 38 percent for supporting services employees.

Below is a chart of benefit expenses as a percentage of position salaries.

FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09 (est.)
54	58	54	52

A detailed financial management forecast of revenue and expenses based on prior year data, estimates, and planned charges has been completed. Based on projections, expenditures will increase 5 percent in FY 2009, 4.6 percent in FY 2010, and 3.5 percent in FY 2011. In order to cover these increases, the price of student meals needs to be raised.

The division has implemented the following additional initiatives:

- Postponing all equipment purchases except those necessary to maintain food safety
- Exploring additional rebate opportunities through the USDA food distribution program
- Examining bid structure for food and supply purchases
- Freezing positions or adjusting hours according to numbers served and revenue
- Increasing the a la carte food prices
- Freezing/reducing supply orders where possible
- Increasing the marketing of meal service to MCPS students, staff, and non-MCPS sites
- Increasing the price of meals to non-MCPS sites

Taking into consideration the financial management plan and steps already taken to control costs and enhance revenue, the price of lunch for elementary students should be increased from \$2.25 to \$2.40. The price of lunch for secondary students should be increased from \$2.50 to \$2.65. Adult lunches will be charged a la carte prices. The price of breakfast will increase from \$1.25 to \$1.30 for both the elementary and secondary students. Eligible low-income students in MCPS will continue to receive meals that are either free, or if reduced-price eligible, cost 30 cents for breakfast and 40 cents for lunch.

With the recommended meal price increases, MCPS remains within the price range of other local school systems (see Attachment).

WHEREAS, Expenditures in the food and nutrition services program for salaries and employee benefits, food, and supplies are expected to increase in FY 2009 by approximately 5 percent over the FY 2008 levels; and

WHEREAS, Federal and state reimbursement rates for meals will increase by two percent; and

WHEREAS, To maintain a financially solvent food service enterprise fund it is necessary to increase revenues in FY 2009; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the price of the elementary school lunch be increased from \$2.25 to \$2.40, secondary school lunch be increased from \$2.50 to \$2.65, and the price of breakfast be increased from \$1.25 to \$1.30 for all students; and be it further

Resolved, That the price increases be effective August 26, 2008.

JDW:LAB:KCL:skh

Attachment

PRICE SURVEY RESULTS

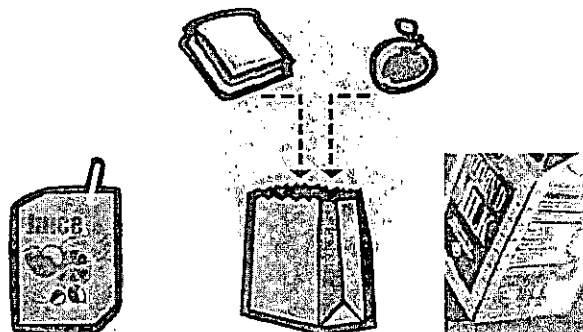
	Montgomery County* (Proposed)	Alexandria City	Arlington County	Baltimore County	Fairfax County	Frederick County*	Howard County	Prince George's County*	Prince William County	Washington County
Breakfast	1.30	1.15	1.05	1.80 1.95	1.50	1.10* 1.35*	1.50	1.10* 1.25*	2.10	1.00
Elementary Lunch	2.40	2.15	2.05, 2.35	2.90	2.40	1.85*	2.50	1.75*	2.15	1.70
Middle Lunch	2.65	2.45	2.35	3.00	2.50	2.10*	3.00	1.85*	2.25	1.95
High Lunch	2.65	2.45	2.35	3.00	2.50	2.10*	3.00	1.85*	2.45	1.95
Milk	.60	.50	.55	.60	.60	.35*	.50	.40*	.50	.50
Incremental Increase	Brkfst: .05 Lunch: .15 Elem: .15 Sec: .15 Milk: .10	Brkfst: .10 Lunch: .10 Elem: .10 Sec: .10 Milk: .05	Brkfst: .05 Lunch: .05 Elem: .05 Sec: .05 Milk: .05	Brkfst: .40 Lunch: .40 Milk: .10	Brkfst: .25 Lunch: .25 Milk: .10	Brkfst: tbd Lunch: tbd Milk: tbd	Brkfst: n/c Lunch: .25 Elem: .25 Sec: .25 Milk: .10	Brkfst: tbd Lunch: tbd Milk: tbd	Brkfst: .10 Lunch: .10 Milk: .10	Brkfst: n/c Lunch: n/c Milk: n/c

All prices are for FY 2009

*Decision on prices for FY 2009 still pending.

May 2008

Kennedy Cluster Summer Meals Program



Come and have **FREE** lunch with us at
Georgian Forest Elementary School

June 16–August 15 (Monday–Friday)
11:00 am to 1:00 pm—use the gymnasium entrance
3100 Regina Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20906
(301) 460-2170

*For additional information, please call the Division of Food and
Nutrition Services at 301-840-8170*

Who is eligible to attend? All children 18 years and under in the John F. Kennedy Cluster are welcome to attend. **High school students need to show identification.** If you attend the following schools, you qualify to have free lunch with us during the summer:

John F. Kennedy HS
Argyle MS
Georgian Forest ES
Strathmore ES
Bel Pre ES

Aara L. Davis,
Principal
Peter Moran,
Assistant Principal

*You must eat the
lunch at Georgian
Forest ES. You may
not take the food
and eat elsewhere.
Thank you. ☺*

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

May 6, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools



Subject: Maryland Meals for Achievement

Application packets for the 2008-2009 Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) in-classroom breakfast program have been received by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Division of Food and Nutrition Services. Because there is no new funding available for the program, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) will only accept applications from the schools currently participating in the MMFA in-classroom breakfast program that remain eligible to receive this service. A list of all other schools that meet eligibility requirements will be submitted to MSDE to be considered for the program if additional funding becomes available. Additional funding would become available if a currently enrolled school discontinues the program.

Twenty-nine MCPS schools are enrolled in the program. Twenty-eight of the 29 schools will continue to participate. The Mark Twain Program will no longer be eligible because it is closing. We are hopeful that MSDE will permit the Mark Twain Program to be replaced with another MCPS school.

The MSDE School and Community Nutrition Programs Branch will notify school systems in early June of the schools that are enrolled in MMFA for the 2008-2009 school year.

If you have questions concerning the MMFA in-classroom breakfast program for the 2008-2009 school year, please contact Mr. Larry A. Bowers, chief operating officer, at 301-279-3626, or Mrs. Kathleen C. Lazor, director, Division of Food and Nutrition Services, at 301-840-8170.

JDW:skh

Copy to:

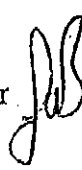
Mr. Knapp
Ms. Ervin
Mr. Bowers
Mr. Benson
Mrs. Lazor

Office of the Chief Operating Officer
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 26, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Larry A. Bowers, Chief Operating Officer 

Subject: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Initiatives

Arcola Elementary School and Newport Mill Middle School are two out of 25 schools in Maryland selected to participate in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for the upcoming school year. These schools were selected by a committee at the Maryland State Department of Education after reviewing a proposal submitted by the Division of Food and Nutrition Services (DFNS) and the two schools.

The main goal of the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption among students. The grant funds will be used to serve a fresh fruit or vegetable as a mid-morning snack once a week during the school year at no charge to students in the two schools. The program, called *Fun with Fresh Fruits and Vegetables!*, will take advantage of local and seasonal produce whenever possible. The snack will be delivered to students in the classroom.

Fun with Fresh Fruits and Vegetables! will launch in September, 2008, with a mini-farm market where students may "shop" for fresh fruits and vegetables. DFNS staff will provide nutritional information, local farmers will talk about how food is grown, and chefs will demonstrate simple food preparation. Every Wednesday, a morning announcement with information about the featured fruit or vegetable will precede the snack for that day. A student activity will be delivered to the classroom with the fruit or vegetable. The teacher will conduct a lesson (3-5 minutes) designed to reinforce the nutrition education message. A monthly parent newsletter will be sent home containing the snack schedule, information about the fruits and vegetables served, and facts that provide parents with the opportunity to interact with their child and reinforce what the child learned in school. The students may grow their own cherry tomato plant in their classroom in the spring. Volunteer chefs will demonstrate how certain snacks are prepared.

Additionally, September 22 through 26 has been established as the Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week. This initiative was articulated as part of the Jane Lawton Farm to School Program created during the 2008 Session of the Maryland General Assembly by Senate Bill 158, Farm-to-School. The bill calls for facilitating the procurement of local Maryland produce for school meals and creating a Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week to promote Maryland

Members of the Board of Education

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June 26, 2008

agriculture through school meal and classroom programs and interaction between students and local farmers. Ms. Kathleen C. Lazor, director, DFNS, is a member of the implementation work group with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland State Department of Education.

During the week, schools in Maryland will feature a variety of food grown and produced in Maryland. On Wednesday, September 24, a kick-off event will be held at Takoma Park Middle School. It is expected that Governor O'Malley, Senator Jamie Raskin, who sponsored the bill; Dr. Nancy Grasmick, state superintendent of schools; the Lawton Family; and others will attend the celebration. The details for the event are being finalized and will be sent to you as soon as possible.

These are exciting activities that will increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption among our students, increase frequency with which schools provide fresh fruits and vegetables to create a healthy school environment, and provide nutrition education to support both. Both programs support JPG—RA Wellness: Physical and Nutritional Health.

Please refer any questions to Ms. Lazor, at 301-840-8170 or me.

LAB:bsr

Copy to:

Dr. Weast

Executive Staff

Mr. Benson

✓ Mrs. Lazor

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washingtonpost.com

Schools Get A Lesson in Lunch Line Economics

Food Costs Unravel Nutrition Initiatives

By Maria Glod
Washington Post Staff Writer
Monday, April 14, 2008; A01

New York students will have to settle for pizza without tasty turkey pepperoni topping. In Montgomery County schools, tomato slices were pulled for a few weeks from cafeteria salads in favor of less-expensive carrots or celery.

And in Davie County, N.C., Yoo-hoo drinks, which had been taken off the shelf in favor of healthier options, are back. Sure, officials would rather the kids chugged milk. But each Yoo-hoo sale brings in 36 cents of profit.

Sharp rises in the cost of milk, grain and fresh fruits and vegetables are hitting cafeterias across the country, forcing cash-strapped schools to raise prices or pinch pennies by serving more economical dishes. Some school officials on a mission to help fight childhood obesity say it's becoming harder to fill students' plates with healthy, low-fat foods.

Several Washington area school systems -- including those in Prince George's, Fairfax and Prince William counties and Alexandria -- are proposing to increase lunch prices next school year. For Prince George's schools, it would be the first increase in a decade.

For Montgomery schools, this year's dairy bill is expected to be about \$600,000 more than last year. Officials expect to decide in June whether to seek an increase in meal prices.

Becky Domokos-Bays, director of food and nutrition for Alexandria schools, said schools need to raise prices to cover rising food and labor costs but worries that even small increases will strain middle-class families who don't qualify for a price break. The School Board approved a 10-cent increase for students who pay full price, raising the lunch price in elementary school to \$2.15 and in middle and high schools to \$2.45.

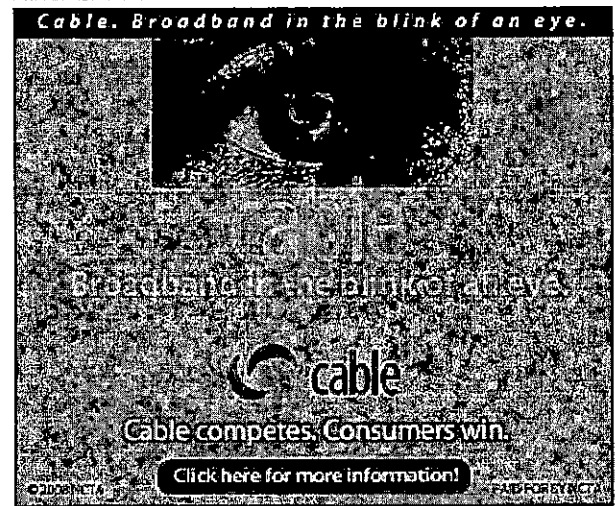
"There's a tipping point somewhere, and I think we're there," Domokos-Bays said. "I don't know how much more families can afford to pay."

School meal programs across the country are run somewhat like restaurants, relying on federal and state subsidies and profits from meal and snack sales and catering services to buy food and pay workers. Rising labor costs, coupled with the recent push for healthier meals, which has meant serving higher-priced foods such as whole grain breads and fresh vegetables, has squeezed budgets. Soaring food prices make it even harder to break even.

Miami-Dade County schools are on track to pay \$4.5 million more for milk this year than last year, about a 47 percent increase. Penny Parham, administrative director of the schools' department of food and nutrition, came to Washington last month to urge federal lawmakers to raise subsidies.

"We do not want to serve our students highly refined sugar and flour products, which are more affordable,"

Advertisement



Parham told the House Education and Labor Committee, "but we are continually being pushed down this path."

Each year Uncle Sam, in an effort to ensure the neediest children get healthy meals, gives schools a little more cash to help feed students. But school officials nationwide say the federal share hasn't kept pace with rising costs. This year, the U.S. Agriculture Department is giving schools \$2.47 per lunch to serve free meals to children from the poorest families, up from \$2.40 last year, a 3 percent increase. In the same time, milk prices rose about 17 percent and bread nearly 12 percent.

The federal government provides \$2.07 per meal for students eligible for a reduced-price lunch and 23 cents a meal for students who pay full price. Schools also receive some foods, including meat, cheese and canned goods, purchased by the federal government.

The average cost of preparing and serving a school lunch runs from about \$2.70 to \$3.10, according to the School Nutrition Association.

In some places, food service budgets are dipping into the red, requiring schools to use general funds that pay for such expenses as teacher salaries, computers and busing. The operating budgets that provide those general funds are also under heavy pressure because of lower state and local tax revenues. In Arlington County, the School Board kicked in about \$150,000 to food services last year, and officials predict about the same will be needed this year.

Kathy Lazor, food and nutrition director for Montgomery schools, said she expects the extra dollars spent on milk will eat up about \$200,000 in profit from last school year.

"We knew we were going to have a slight increase in milk. We didn't expect the 23 percent," she said. "We're going to more than likely come in with a slight loss this year."

The food service program in D.C. public schools lost \$30 million in three years, partly because the system has not filed paperwork needed to get federal reimbursement for students receiving free and reduced-price meals. Schools Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee said she wants a private contractor to take over cafeterias and provide tastier and more nutritious meals.

School food chiefs across the country said they are cutting costs in much the same way that at-home chefs clip coupons and scan supermarket aisles for sales. They are seeking to keep healthy items on the menu but are increasingly picky about choosing the most economical options. Several said vendors have warned that prices will be even higher within months.

Fairfax schools, for instance, serve oranges -- 14 cents each -- instead of grapes, which are a quarter a serving. "We're all in the same boat," food and nutrition director Penny McConnell said. "When you go to the grocery store, you see your basket is filled up with fewer items and the bill is the same."

Schools are trying to boost profits by serving popular items that sell better. Richmond schools stopped offering seafood baskets, which cost schools 60 cents, because students weren't lining up for them. Students prefer chicken nuggets, which cost about a quarter a serving.

Tess Enright, 9, a third-grader at Montgomery's Rock View Elementary, is just the kind of customer schools seek. She studies the menu at home and decides whether to pack a sandwich or buy a school lunch. One afternoon last week, chicken nuggets and chocolate milk drew her into the lunch line.

"I can buy two times a week and bring three times," Enright said.

Cindy Hobbs, director of child nutrition services for Charlotte-Mecklenburg County schools in North Carolina, said she has swapped spaghetti for lasagna because she knows more students buy lunch on spaghetti day. Plus, she said, "you get a better price if you buy more of one product."

Small, rural districts, which don't serve enough meals to court competitive bids from suppliers, might be squeezed the most. The 12 schools in Davie County used to offer fresh fruit three or four times a week. Now it's twice weekly. To boost snack revenue, the schools returned a full-fat cookie to the snack line.

But big districts also are feeling the pinch. In the New York school system, the nation's largest, which serves 850,000 meals a day, the milk bill is up \$3 million over last year, said Eric Goldstein, chief executive for school support services.

To help make up difference, the "vegetable medley will be less of a medley," he said. Sliced tomatoes have replaced their more expensive cousins, grape tomatoes, on the salad bar. Pizza topped with turkey pepperoni is served less often.

"We're seeing our food cost growing at a rate that is putting pressure on our budget. Increases in corn, wheat, milk -- it's really hitting us," Goldstein said. "We're having to be creative, but we're worried it's not sustainable."

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Montgomery County Public School locations where lunch is provided to program enrollees. For more information, call 301-840-8170.

Arcola ES	1820 Franwell Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902
Beall ES Headstart	451 Beall Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850
Bel Pre ES Headstart	13801 Rippling Brook Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Burnt Mills ELO	11211 Childs Street, Silver Spring
Chevy Chase ES ESOL	4015 Rosemary Street, Chevy Chase
Clopper Mill ES ESOL	18501 Cinnamon Drive, Germantown
Drew ES Headstart	1200 Swingdale Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20905
E. Brooke Lee @ Oakland Terrace ES	2720 Pliers Mill Road, Silver Spring
East Silver Spring ELO	631 Silver Spring Avenue, Silver Spring
Eastern MS	300 University Blvd., Silver Spring
Forest Knolls Regional Summer	10830 Eastwood Avenue, Silver Spring
Gaithersburg ELO	35 North Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg
Gaithersburg ES Evenstart	35 North Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD
Gaithersburg ES Linkages	35 North Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD
Gaithersburg HS	314 S Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg
*Georgian Forest ES ELO (ONLY FREE LUNCH SITE)	3100 Regina Drive, Silver Spring
Glen Haven ES ELO	10900 Inwood Avenue, Silver Spring
Glen Haven ES SS	10900 Inwood Avenue, Silver Spring
Good Counsel HS	17301 Old Vic Blvd, Olney, MD
Harmony Hills ES ELO	13407 Lydia Street, Silver Spring
Highland ELO	3100 Medway Street, Silver Spring
Highland View ELO	9010 Providence Avenue, Silver Spring
Jackson Road ELO	900 Jackson Road, Silver Spring
Kemp Mill ELO	411 Sisson Street, Silver Spring
Kennedy HS	1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring
Maryvale ES Reading	1000 First Street, Rockville (M-Th)
Montgomery Knolls ELO	807 Daleview Street, Silver Spring
Montgomery Village MD	19300 Watkins Mill Road, Gaithersburg
Neelsville MS @ Montgomery Village	19300 Watkins Mill Road, Gaithersburg
Newport Mill MS	13111 Newport Mill MS, Kensington
Northwood HS	919 University Blvd, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Roscoe Nix ES ELO	1100 Corless Street, Silver Spring
Oakview ELO	400 East Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring
Parkland MS	4610 W. Frankfort Drive, Rockville
Pine Crest ELO	201 Woodmoor Drive, Silver Spring
Piney Branch ES @ Takoma Park ES	7511 Holly Avenue, Takoma Park
Rolling Terr ELO @ Takoma Park ES	7511 Holly Avenue, Takoma Park
Rosemont ES ELO	16400 Alden Avenue, Gaithersburg
Shriver ES ELO	12518 Greenly Drive, Silver Spring
Silver Spring Int'l MS	313 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring
Sligo SS	1401 Dennis Avenue, Silver Spring
South Lake ELO	18201 Contour Road, Gaithersburg
Strathmore Summer School	3200 Beaverwood Lane, Silver Spring
Takoma Park ES SS	7511 Holly Avenue, Takoma Park
Takoma Park MS SS	7611 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring
Twinbrook ELO	5911 Ridgeway Avenue, Rockville
Weller Road ELO	3301 Weller Road, Silver Spring

Wheaton HS	12601 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring
Wheaton HS- Regional	12601 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring
White Oak MS	12201 New Hampshire Ave. Silver Spring

Montgomery County Department of Recreation locations where lunch is provided to program enrollees. For more information, call 240-777-4910.

Argyle MS Rec @ Bel Pre ES	13801 Rippling Brook Drive
Germantown Rec	19110 Liberty Mill Road, Germantown
Glenallen Rec @ Loiederman	12701 Goodhill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Good Hope Community Center	14715 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring
East County Rec	3310 Gatehead Manor Way, Burtonsville
Highland View Rec @ SSI	313 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring
Long Branch Rec	8700 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring
Pine Crest Re	St. Lawrence Road, Silver Spring
Rosemary Hills Rec	2111 Porter Road, Silver Spring
Sligo Dennis Rec	10200 Sligo Creek Parkway, Silver Spring
Viers Mill Rec	4425 Garrett Park Road, Silver Spring

Private/non-profit locations where breakfast/lunch is provided to program enrollees. For more information, call 301-840-8170.

Camp Bethel	8252 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring
Camp Discovery @ Forest Oak	651 Saybrooke Oaks Blvd., Gaithersburg
Camp Rainbow @ Bohrer Park	506 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg
Centronia of Takoma Park	1345 University Blvd. E., Takoma Park
Emory Grove Resource CTR	8105 Morning View Drive, Gaithersburg
Georgian CT Comm CTR	3600 Bel Pre Road, Silver Spring
Germantown Boys & Girls	19910 Frederick Road, Germantown
Good Hope Methodist Church	14680 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905
Greenhill CDC	120 Geneva Avenue, Silver Spring MD 20910
Lincoln Park Center	357 Frederick Avenue, Rockville
Magruder's Discovery	10530 Westlake Drive #302 Bethesda, MD
Maryvale Park	812 First Street, Rockville
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church	608 N. Horners Lane, Rockville
Northwest Park YMCA	848 #B Northhampton Drive, Silver Spring
Parkland Academic-Asian	4610 W. Frankfort Drive, Rockville, MD 20853
Rock Creek Terrace Apartment	12630 Viers Mill Road, Rockville
Salvation Army Day Camp	2021 Aircraft Drive, Germantown
Shady Grove Apartments	16125 Crabbs Branch Way, Gaithersburg
Silver Spring Boys & Girls Club	Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring
Sligo MS Gap Buster @ SSI	313 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring
Smith Family Center	8343 Fairhaven Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Soccer Summer Camp	Germantown Soccerplex- Schaeffer Rd, Germantown, MD
Summit Hall Partners in Caring @ Rosemont	16400 Alden Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Twinbrook Park	5911 Ridgeway Avenue, Rockville
Twinbrook Community Preschool	12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., Rockville, MD 20851
Willows Apartments	429 W. Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg



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Montgomery County, Maryland

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Montgomery County Opens Its First Free Summer Lunch Program at Georgian Forest Elementary School

- Release ID: 08-102
- Release Date: 6/27/2008
- Contact: Sonya Healy 240-777-7970
- From: Office of Valerie Ervin

Montgomery County Opens Its First Free Summer Lunch Program at Georgian Forest Elementary School

On Monday, June 30, at 12 Noon, County Leaders Will Hold Event to Emphasize New Program That Will Fill the Nutritional Needs of Students During the Summer

ROCKVILLE, Md., June 27, 2008—Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin, Council President Mike Knapp, County Executive Ike Leggett, School Board Vice President Shirley Brandman and Superintendent of Schools Jerry D. Weast at 12 noon on Monday, June 30, will join students for lunch at Georgian Forest Elementary School in Silver Spring and provide details on the County's first free "open" lunch site designed to increase the number of children who receive lunch during the summer.

Georgian Forest Elementary, located at 3100 Regina Drive in the John F. Kennedy High School Cluster, was chosen as the County's first free lunch site based on research compiled by the Kennedy Cluster Project team, which identified that children's access to food and transportation were significant barriers towards improving academic achievement.

Twenty six percent of Montgomery County Public Schools students qualify for FARMS (free and reduced meals), an indicator for poverty. "During the school year many of these students receive both breakfast and lunch on a free or reduced basis," said Councilmember Ervin, who serves as chair of the County Council's Education Committee and represents District 5, which includes Kensington, Silver Spring, Takoma Park and Wheaton. "However, children who are in free and reduced meal programs often struggle during the summer months because they have no safety net. Study after study shows that students perform better when they receive adequate nutrition."

MCPS Food and Nutrition Services provide summer lunches for students enrolled in summer programs throughout the County. However, it has never previously had an "open site," where any student—even those not attending a summer program—could go for a free lunch.

The County's first free "open" lunch site is operating at Georgian Forest Elementary weekdays from June 16 until Aug. 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Any student (age 18 and under) who attends John F. Kennedy High School, Argyle Middle School and Georgian Forest, Strathmore and Bel Pre elementary schools is eligible to attend. Students are required to eat in the school's cafeteria.

"I am pleased that the Council, our Departments of Health and Human Services and Transportation and Montgomery County Public Schools have joined forces to make sure kids get the food they need during the summer," said County Executive Leggett. "Uncertain economic times have made life difficult for working families and it is important that our children do not pay the price. Raising healthy and productive kids starts with good nutrition. Working together, Montgomery County is finding ways to make sure children are not hungry, which ultimately contributes to their academic success."

The County and MCPS also have partnered to increase accessibility by providing two transportation options. A "lunch circulator" bus will pick up children at eight neighborhood locations, starting at 10:30 a.m., and will run every 30 minutes until 1 p.m. Also Ride On and Metro buses will provide free bus tokens to students who wish to take the bus to Georgian Forest Elementary. Tokens can be picked up any of the five participating schools.

"Meeting students' nutritional needs cannot take the summer off, and that's why we so enthusiastically support this first 'open lunch' program," said Brandman, vice president of the Montgomery County Board of Education. "This is the first time any student in a target area—whether or not they are participating in a summer program—can come and get a free, nutritious lunch during the summer. As educators, our commitment is to the whole child and this effort recognizes the strong

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connection between meeting basic needs and school readiness."

"We know a key component to a child's well being and ultimately his or her success in school is proper nutrition. No child should study or play hungry, so we are very pleased to be a partner in this program," said Superintendent Weast.

There are approximately 3,500 students in the Kennedy Cluster of schools. The cluster is heavily impacted by poverty and about 50 percent of its students qualify for free and reduced meals. The Kennedy Cluster Project is a joint effort between MCPS and Montgomery County Government aimed at creating a services model for African American students that will improve school performance by breaking down institutional barriers, reducing educational and social disparities and addressing issues associated with the impact of poverty.

"Through our collaborative efforts on the Kennedy Cluster Project, County Government and Montgomery County Public Schools have been able to identify a problem that affects student achievement and develop a solution that will benefit some of the County's neediest children," said Councilmember Ervin. "I want to extend a special thank you to Professor Herman Schwartz from the Washington College of Law at American University and Mary Ann Keeffe for their continued advocacy on this important issue."

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Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 16, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Summer Meals Program News Conference

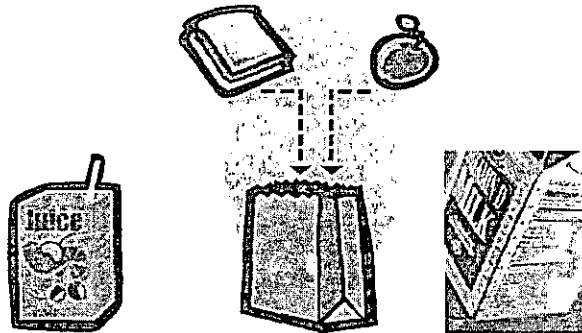
As part of the Kennedy Cluster Project, the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is implementing Montgomery County's first "open lunch" program this summer. While the MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition Services has provided summer lunches for many years to students in specific programs throughout the county, we have never before had an "open lunch" program where any student could receive a free lunch. Beginning on Monday, June 16, and continuing through Friday, August 15, 2008, any student 18 years of age and under who attends one of the Kennedy Cluster Project schools can come to Georgian Forest Elementary School between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and receive a free lunch. Transportation to and from this program will not be provided. I have attached a flyer that has been distributed to students and their families at the five schools that are part of the project—John F. Kennedy High School, Argyle Middle School, Georgian Forest Elementary School, Strathmore Elementary School, and Bel Pre Elementary School. This information also is being translated into other languages.

Establishing Georgian Forest Elementary School as the first "open lunch" site was a collaborative effort of the Kennedy Cluster Project work group and the Summer Meals Program Outreach work group. Councilmember Valerie Ervin's office is planning a news conference to highlight the "open lunch" site. The news conference is scheduled for Monday, June 30, 2008, during the open lunch period at 12:15 p.m. at Georgian Forest Elementary School. Board members are most welcome to attend.

You will receive updates on this event as more details become available. If you have questions, please call Mr. Larry A. Bowers, chief operating officer, at 301-279-3626 or Mrs. Kathleen C. Lazor, director, Division of Food and Nutrition Services, at 301-840-8170.

JDW:vnb
Attachment
Copy to:
Executive Staff
Mr. Benson
Ms. Davis
Mrs. Lazor

Kennedy Cluster Summer Meals Program



Come and have **FREE** lunch with us at
Georgian Forest Elementary School

June 16–August 15 (Monday–Friday)

11:00 am to 1:00 pm—use the gymnasium entrance

3100 Regina Drive

Silver Spring, MD 20906

(301) 460-2170

*For additional information, please call the Division of Food and
Nutrition Services at 301-840-8170*

Who is eligible to attend? All children 18 years and under in the John F. Kennedy Cluster are welcome to attend. **High school students need to show identification.** If you attend the following schools, you qualify to have free lunch with us during the summer:

John F. Kennedy HS
Argyle MS
Georgian Forest ES
Strathmore ES
Bel Pre ES

Aara L. Davis,
Principal
Peter Moran,
Assistant Principal

*You must eat the
lunch at Georgian
Forest ES. You may
not take the food
and eat elsewhere.
Thank you. ☺*

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Wednesday, July 2, 2008

Kids eat free — for the summer, anyway

New program feeds hungry students in the Kennedy cluster, whether they're in summer school or not

by Marcus Moore | Staff Writer

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Apparently, there is free lunch in Montgomery County.

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And on today's menu: turkey bologna and cheese on a hamburger roll, raisins, baby carrots, apple juice and milk. Tomorrow: a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a plum and fruit punch.

On Monday, the county and the school system unveiled a free summer open lunch program at Georgian Forest Elementary School in Silver Spring, the first such site in the county.

The school system, with money from the federal Summer Food Service Program, provides free lunches at 79 sites throughout the county, but only to students who are enrolled in summer programs.

The idea for the new program is to feed children who are eligible for free and reduced-priced meals, an indicator of poverty. Sixty-nine percent of Georgian Forest's students have been on a reduced-price meal plan at some point during the 2006-2007 school year, according to school system data.

"It gets them out of the house, and I don't have to make lunch," said Donna Rouse, a mother of four, whose son, Alijah, is in the Georgian Forest program. "It gives them something to do beside vegging out all day."

There are roughly 3,500 students in the Kennedy cluster, and 50 percent — or 1,750 students — are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, said County Councilwoman Valerie Ervin (D-Dist. 5) of Silver Spring, who has pushed for the John F. Kennedy Cluster Project since her 2004-2006 tenure on the school board. The project is supposed to reduce barriers that hinder academic success.

At Arcola Elementary School, for example, some 77 percent of its students have been on a reduced-price meal plan, which is the highest FARMS rate in the Kennedy cluster.

"They don't stop getting hungry after June," said Ervin, chairwoman of the County Council's Education Committee.

The open lunch program is especially important to families, given the rising cost of groceries. And financial burdens increase on parents during the summer because their children are home more often, Ervin said.

"What we're doing is addressing the child as a whole organism," she said. "We believe this is the responsibility of good government to provide services."

The food for the new program is being paid for by the federal program, with \$12,000 in transportation costs being split evenly by the county and the school system.

Nationally, about 16 million children are on free or reduced-priced meal plans and only 20 percent — or 3.2 million children — are fed during the summer, said Herman Schwartz, a law professor at The American University's Washington College of Law.

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"These kids probably go hungry during the summer," said Schwartz, who helped Montgomery launch the open lunch site on Monday. "This is the beginning of the continuing effort that will go on for some years until we get up to a respectable number."

There's also what Schwartz called the "September effect": Children who don't eat regularly and aren't in summer programs regress when they go back to school.

"Is it really going to impact the kids' learning?" Ricky Ford, coordinator of the John F. Kennedy Cluster for the Montgomery County Council of PTAs, asked of the open lunch program. "I know we want to feed kids, but I'm not sure what impact that's going to have on school and learning. I do think it's a wonderful thing, depending on how things really work out."

For the past five years, the Washington school system has provided free breakfasts and lunches to children during the summer. Last summer, more than 1.5 million free meals were served to roughly 30,000 children at 404 sites, according to the D.C. school system.

"They're getting a very nutritious lunch. It was free. It was open to everybody. We decided, 'Why not?'" said Kelley Eiskant of Silver Spring, who has two children taking advantage of Montgomery's program. "I'm certain that if we were not at home, they'll be eating a lot of junk food."

Who's eligible?

Students — 18 and younger — who attend John F. Kennedy High School, Argyle Middle School, Georgian Forest, Strathmore and Bel Pre elementary schools in Silver Spring. The program runs five days a week, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., until Aug. 15.

How to get there

A "lunch circulator" bus picks up children at eight neighborhood sites, beginning at 10:30 a.m., and runs every 30 minutes until 1 p.m. See schedule at www.gazette.net/links. Ride On and Metro buses will give free tokens to students who take the bus to Georgian Forest. Tokens can be picked up at any of the five schools. Call 301-840-8170.

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